

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims, as follows:

Claims 1 - 12 (cancelled).

Claim 13 (new): A method comprising:

in response to one request to retrieve an object, selecting one control node to retrieve the object;

retrieving, by the one control node, the object from a storage node;

storing the object in a cache at the one control node;

in response to a subsequent request to retrieve the object, selecting another control node to retrieve the object;

retrieving, by the another control node, the object from the storage node; and

storing the object in a cache at the another control node.

Claim 14 (new): The method of claim 13, wherein:

the selecting of the one control node and the selecting of the another control node are accomplished by a level four switch.

Claim 15 (new): The method of claim 13, wherein:

the selecting of the one control node and the selecting of the another control node are accomplished by a load balancing fabric.

Claim 16 (new): The method of claim 13, wherein:

the one control node and the another control node comprise distributed object storage managers.

Claim 17 (new): The method of claim 13, wherein:

the selecting of the one control node and the selecting of the another control node are accomplished by a switch that is capable of prioritizing transmission control protocol and user

datagram protocol traffic.

Claim 18 (new): The method of claim 13, wherein:

the selecting of the one control node and the selecting of the another control node are based on availability of the one control node and the another control node, respectively.

Claim 19 (new): A method comprising:

in response to a plurality of requests for retrieval of an object, selecting control nodes to retrieve the object from a storage node, the selecting being based upon availability of each of the control nodes to retrieve the object; and

storing the object in respective caches in the control nodes.

Claim 20 (new): The method of claim 19, wherein:

the selecting is accomplished by a level four switch.

Claim 21 (new): A system comprising:

a load balancer to, in response to one request to retrieve an object, select one control node to retrieve the object, the one control node being capable of retrieving the object from a storage node and also being capable of storing the object in a cache at the one control node; and

the load balancer being capable of, in response to a subsequent request to retrieve the object, selecting another control node to retrieve the object, the another control node being capable of retrieving the object from the storage node and of storing the object in a cache at the another control node.

Claim 22 (new): The system of claim 21, wherein:

the load balancer comprises a level four switch.

Claim 23 (new): The system of claim 21, wherein:

the load balancer comprises a load balancing fabric.

Claim 24 (new): The system of claim 21, wherein:

the one control node and the another control node comprise distributed object storage managers.

Claim 25 (new): The system of claim 21, wherein:

the load balancer comprises a switch that is capable of prioritizing transmission control protocol and user datagram protocol traffic.

Claim 26 (new): The system of claim 21, wherein:

the load balancer is capable of selecting the one control node and the another control node based on availability of the one control node and the another control node, respectively.

Claim 27 (new): A system comprising:

a load balancer to, in response to a plurality of requests for retrieval of an object, select control nodes to retrieve the object from a storage node, the selecting being based upon availability of each of the control nodes to retrieve the object; and

each of the control nodes being capable of storing the object in respective caches in the respective control nodes.

Claim 28 (new): The system of claim 27, wherein:

the load balancer comprises a level four switch.